

This terrible human tragedy must not be forgotten. Like the Holocaust, the Armenian Genocide stands as a tragic example of the human suffering that results from hatred and intolerance.

The Ottoman Turkish Empire between 1915 and 1923 massacred one and a half million Armenian people. More than 500,000 Armenians were exiled from a homeland that their ancestors had occupied for more than 3,000 years. A race of people was nearly eliminated.

It would be an even greater tragedy to forget that the Armenian Genocide ever happened. To not recognize the horror of such events almost assures their repetition in the future. Adolf Hitler, in preparing his genocide plans for the Jews, predicted that no one would remember the atrocities he was about to unleash. After all, he asked, "Who remembers the Armenians?"

Our statements today are intended to preserve the memory of the Armenian loss, and to remind the world that the Turkish government—to this day—refuses to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide. The truth of this tragedy can never and should never be denied.

And we must also be mindful of the current suffering of the Armenian, where the Armenian people are still immersed in tragedy and violence. The unrest between Armenia and Azerbaijan continues in Nagorno-Karabakh. Thousands of innocent people have already perished in this dispute, and many more have been displaced and are homeless.

In the face of this difficult situation we have an opportunity for reconciliation. Now is the time for Armenia and its neighbors to come together and work toward building relationships that will assure lasting peace.

Meanwhile, in America, the Armenian-American community continues to thrive and to provide assistance and solidarity to its countrymen and women abroad. The Armenian-American community is bound together by strong generational and family ties, an enduring work ethic and a proud sense of ethnic heritage. Today we recall the tragedy of their past, not to replace blame, but to answer a fundamental question, "Who remembers the Armenians?"

Our commemoration of the Armenian Genocide speaks directly to that, and I answer, we do.

SENATOR PAUL SIMON FEDERAL BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to support S. 2022, a bill to honor our former House and Senate colleague Paul Simon and I commend Mr. Costello for introducing the House companion bill H.R. 3713. Both House and Senate bills have bi-partisan support.

Paul Simon began his public career in 1954 with his election to the Illinois House. In 1962, he advanced to the Illinois Senate and in 1968 he was elected Lieutenant Governor. During his 14 years in the state legislature he won the Independent Voters of Illinois "Best Legislator Award" in every session.

After teaching at Sangamon State University, and the John F. Kennedy School of Gov-

ernment at Harvard, Simon returned to public life in 1974 with his election to the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1984 he upset Senator Percy to win a seat in the U.S. Senate. In 1990 he won re-election to the Senate by defeating his opponent with 65 percent of the vote and by nearly a million votes—the largest plurality of any contested candidate for senator of either party that year.

In the Senate he became the champion of new, direct college loan programs, and was the chief democratic sponsor of the balanced budget amendment. He was active in addressing violence in television programming, and wrote the National Literacy Act, the Job Training partnership amendments, and several provisions of the 1994 Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Simon held numerous honorary degrees and wrote several books on such topics as world hunger, political science, historical biographies, and monetary policy. Paul Simon was a true gentleman, thoughtful and courteous. The American public benefited from his service both in House and Senate.

Upon his retirement and until his untimely death in December 2003, Senator Simon taught political science and journalism at Southern Illinois University—Carbondale campus.

It is most fitting and proper we honor the legacy of our colleague and friend with this designation. I urge support for S. 2022.

RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN OF VIRGINIA BEACH, VA, THE FOUNDING RABBI OF CONGREGATION BETH CHAVERIM IN VIRGINIA BEACH, ON HIS CELEBRATION OF 30 YEARS IN THE RABBINIC MINISTRY

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2004

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rabbi Israel Zoberman, rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, on his celebration of 30 years in Rabbinic Ministry.

Rabbi Zoberman is the first rabbi to earn a doctor of ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary, affiliated with the Presbyterian Church, USA.

From 1985 to 1995 Rabbi Zoberman's synagogue was the only one in the world to meet in a Catholic facility, the Church of the Ascension in Virginia Beach. While at the Church of the Ascension in 1993, Rabbi Zoberman invited Muslims to join in the first Jewish-Muslim joint prayer in Tidewater, celebrating the beginning of the peace process in the Middle East.

With a penchant for community and a natural leader, Rabbi Zoberman became the first rabbi to serve as Chair of the Community Relations Council of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater; the first rabbi from Hampton Roads to serve on the National Board of Directors of The Jewish Council for Public Affairs; and the first rabbi to serve as President of the Virginia Beach Clergy Association. Rabbi Zoberman has twice served as president of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis.

Rabbi Zoberman is the only rabbi who is a volunteer police chaplain in Hampton Roads,

serving with the Virginia Beach Police Department.

In recognition of his many pioneering activities on behalf of the Hampton Roads community, Cox Cable recognized Rabbi Zoberman in 1989 as a "Great Citizen of Hampton Roads".

In 1999, Mayor Meyera Oberndorf of Virginia Beach proclaimed April 23, 1999 as "Israel Zoberman Day" upon his 25th anniversary in rabbinic ministry, and his alma mater, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati awarded him an honorary doctor of divinity degree.

Throughout his 30-year career in Virginia Beach, Rabbi Zoberman has consistently demonstrated a remarkable spirit of ecumenism in his relations with leaders of other faiths and an equal level of enthusiasm for serving the Hampton Roads community. Because of Rabbi Israel Zoberman's resounding success, and his dedicated years of service to the Hampton Roads community has benefited immensely from his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Rabbi Israel Zoberman for his leadership, his commitment to Rabbinic Ministry and the many contributions he has made to his community.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLIO VACCINE FIELD TRIALS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join the March of Dimes in commemorating the 50th anniversary of the polio vaccine field trials. This day in April holds great significance for the nation as it was this day in 1954 that the first dose of the Salk vaccine was distributed to children at Franklin Sherman Elementary school in McLean, Virginia, as part of the National Field Trial Program.

On that April day, thousands of parents drove their school-age children to designated sites across the country for immunizations of an experimental vaccine that they hoped would stop the raging polio epidemic that was leaving young Americans paralyzed and even, in some cases, dead. Organized by the March of Dimes, this was the largest voluntary clinical field trial ever undertaken.

One year later, some 1.8 million children, known as the "Polio Pioneers" in 44 states from Maine to California eventually took part in the three-inoculation sequence—about 4,000 children just at Franklin Sherman. Following these trials, the Salk vaccine was declared safe, potent and effective and polio was virtually eliminated from North America. By the end of 2003, poliomyelitis had been eliminated worldwide in all but six countries.

The March of Dimes, formerly known as the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, funded Dr. Jonas Salk's groundbreaking work on the Salk polio vaccine and then, through its volunteers and health networks, organized the vaccination clinics, record keeping, parents' meetings, blood samplings, stand-by transportation, and make-up clinics for absentees at each of the clinical trial sites.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me today in commemorating April 26 as